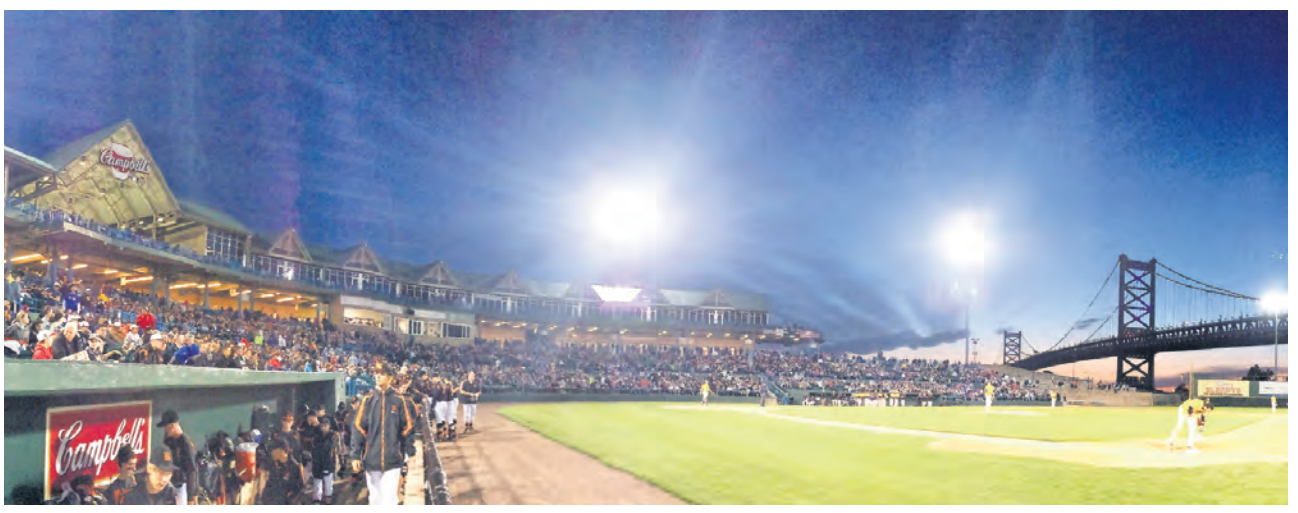
‘Sopranos’ bar must go-go

Satin Dolls, the Lodi spot immortalized as the mob drama’s Bada Bing club, is being shut by the state. PAGE 13

The Star-Ledger

$1.50 FINAL EDITION AFFILIATED WITH nj.com FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017

CAMDEN



Built in part with millions in taxpayer dollars and once home to the Camden Riversharks’ minor league baseball team, Campbell’s Field hosted a high school game last year between Barnegat and Gloucester Catholic. *Star-Ledger file photos*

MILLIONS IN TAXPAYER CASH GOING, GOING ...

Rutgers’ plan calls for razing ballpark, replacing it with 3 university athletic fields

Kelly Heyboer *For The Star-Ledger*

Once hailed as a new beginning for the city’s waterfront, Camden’s troubled baseball stadium will be torn down and replaced with three Rutgers University athletic fields under a deal approved by the university’s board Thursday.

Rutgers’ board of governors voted unanimously to move forward with a deal to team with the City of Camden and the Camden County Improvement Authority to demolish Campbell’s Field, the 16-year-old stadium across from the Philadelphia skyline.

The 6,400-seat stadium will be replaced with a multipurpose athletics facility with fields, modest bleachers and locker rooms for Rutgers-Camden’s NCAA Division III baseball team, as well as softball, soccer, lacrosse and field hockey teams, university officials said. The fields, which would be owned by the city, would also be used by Camden students and residents.

“These playing fields are important to Rutgers students as well as to the health of Camden’s families,” said Phoebe Haddon, Rutgers-Camden’s chancellor.

Rutgers pledged $7.5 million for the project, which is estimated to cost about $15 million, school officials said. The City of Camden is expected to apply for Green Acres state funding to pay for the other half of the project.

Rutgers-Camden spokesman Mike Sepanic said he is unsure of what will happen to the old stadium’s debt.

No timetable was given for razing the stadium or building the new athletic facility.

Camden Mayor Dana Redd said the city is disappointed to see Campbell’s Field torn down, but that the partnership with Rutgers is the best outcome for the city.

“I cannot think of a better scenario,” Redd said in a statement.

City and county officials have been debating for months what to do with the stadium and the valuable land around it.

The Camden Riversharks, a now-defunct minor league baseball team, moved out two years ago. Rutgers-Camden’s baseball team has been the only team regularly using the facility.

Many view the stadium as a massive failure and waste of public money, which SEE STADIUM, 11

The cost of replacing a $21 million stadium

$15M
Estimated cost of replacing Camden’s stadium with a multipurpose athletics facility, according to Rutgers-Camden officials.

$7.5M
Amount that Rutgers pledged for the project.

Other funding: Camden is expected to apply for Green Acres state funding to pay for the other half of the project.

WASHINGTON

Bill averts shutdown, at least for now

Measure temporarily extends funding, but bigger battle looms over spending

Mike DeBonis *Washington Post*

Congress passed a short-term spending bill Thursday, avoiding a partial government shutdown in the coming days but setting up a more heated spending fight later this month.

The measure to extend government funding until Dec. 22 passed the House and Senate by comfortable margins. President Donald Trump indicated he will sign the stopgap deal, averting a partial government shutdown that had been set to take effect at 12:01 Saturday morning.

Congressional leaders of both parties went to the White House on Thursday afternoon to begin talks with Trump on a long-term spending pact.

“We’re all here today as a very friendly, well-unified group, well-knit-together group of people,” Trump said at the top of the Oval Office meeting. “We hope that we’re going to make some great progress for our country. I think SEE SPENDING, 8

JERSEY CITY

Marina details emerge for Liberty State Park

Terrence T. McDonald *The Jersey Journal*

A new, privately operated marina would stretch for nearly a mile along the waterfront inside Liberty State Park, with the marina operator leasing 45 acres on the southern end of the state-owned park, including two public parking lots and all three jetties, newly released documents show.

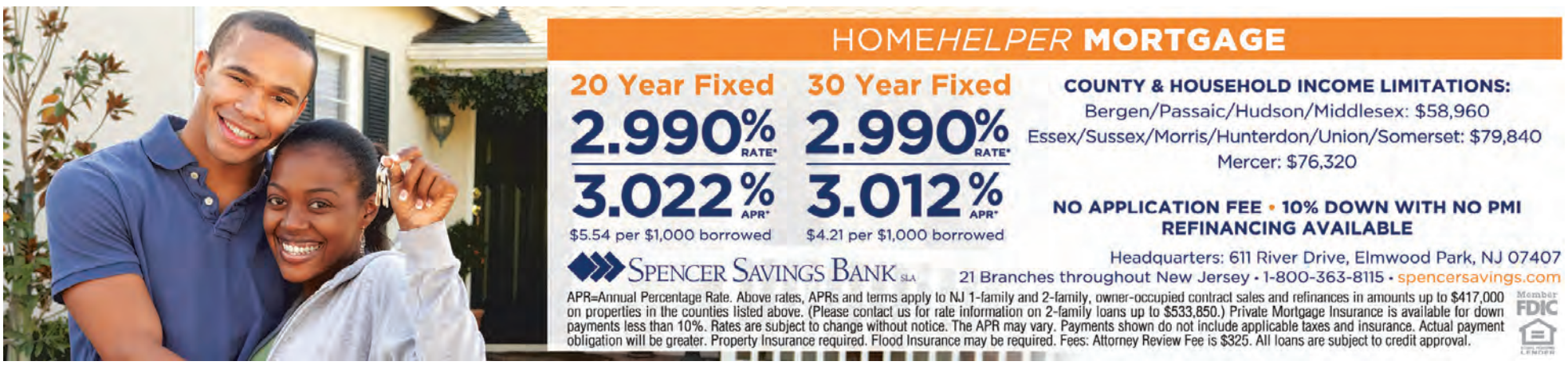
The documents show the state would also permit the marina operator, Suntex Marinas, to open a public restaurant or office on the southern end of the park, which overlooks the Statue of Liberty. On the park’s north end, Suntex runs Liberty Landing Marina, which would expand by 10 acres as part of the plan under consideration by the state Department of Environmental Protection, which operates Liberty State Park.

The documents, a proposed amended lease between Suntex and the DEP, were released pursuant to a public- SEE MARINA, 11

WASHINGTON

Franken leaving Senate after harassment claims

A defiant Al Franken announced he is resigning from the Senate, but won’t be “giving up my voice,” he said. Senators from the Minnesota Democrat’s own party had publicly sought his ouster the previous day over sexual misconduct allegations. **Page 4**

Business, 18 **Classified**, 29 **Comics**, 27 **Editorial**, 14 **New Jersey**, 13 **Obituaries**, 9 **Puzzles**, 24 **Sports**, 29 **Today**, 23 **TV Grid**, 25 **World News**, 4

8 14186 00100 9 49517